

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 15781 311011Z
ACTION NODS-00

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: NATO, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON NATO COMMAND
- AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS

REF: USNATO 07931

OUR IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THE DEFENSE VICE MINISTER'S INQUIRY IS THAT IT IS RELATED TO ONGOING CONTROVERSY ABOUT LACK OF AUTHORITY FOR JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES TO RESPOND TO A SURPRISE ATTACK WITHOUT EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION THROUGH CIVILIAN CHANNELS, I.E. CABINET AND DEFENSE MINISTER. JAPANESE CHIEF OF STAFF WAS RECENTLY FORCED TO RESIGN HIS POST AFTER GOING PUBLIC WITH ISSUE, ALTHOUGH IN AFTERMATH OF RESIGNATION NOT ONLY GOVERNMENT PARTY (LDP) BUT RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF OPPOSITION APPEAR AGREED THAT SIGNIFICANT LACUNA EXISTS. STUDIES TO FILL THE GAP ARE UNDERWAY, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT NEW LEGISLATION WILL BE REQUIRED. IT WOULD SEEM THAT INQUIRY TO LUNS IS INTENDED TO GATHER INFORMATION IN THIS CONNECTION; THERE IS NO CHANCE WHATSOEVER IN TERMS OF JAPANESE CONSTITUTION OR CURRENT SITUATION OF JAPANESE INTEREST DEVELOPING IN LINK WITH NATO.

WE ARE REPEATING SOME OF OUR PERTINENT REPORTING TO USNATO
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AND WILL PASS ON ANY FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION THAT DEVELOPS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR US TO KNOW WHETHER INQUIRY STEMMED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE VICE MINISTER MARUYAMA, THE SENIOR CAREER OFFICIAL IN JAPANESE DEFENSE AGENCY, OR FROM PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER TAKENAKA. LATTER POSITION IS FILLED BY POLITICAL APPOINTEES WHO COME AND GO WITH SOME FREQUENCY.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT USNATO. MANSFIELD

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